

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

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1. (Amended) A method of operating a telecommunications system having a switching facility and a plurality of subscriber channels over which data are transmitted in packet form, comprising:

recognizing calls from subscribers to an internet; and

at the front end of the switching facility associated with said subscribers, combining those packets of the plurality of subscriber channels that are to be sent to the internet onto a single channel.

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2. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein two or more concentrating channels are provided, and wherein packets of two or more subscribers are fed into the two or more concentrating channels without fixed assignment to the subscribers.

3. (Amended) A telecommunications system, comprising:

subscriber channels over which data are transmitted in packet form;

a switching facility having crosspoints, each crosspoint capable of switching one of the subscriber channels to an outgoing channel; and

at least one concentrator, which combines packets of two or more of the subscriber channels to be sent to an internet onto at least one concentrating channel leading to the switching facility and switched via a switching path, wherein a number of two or more concentrating channels is less than a number of the subscriber channels.

4. (Amended) The telecommunications system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the telecommunications system is configured to transmit voice signals on the subscriber channels.

5. (Twice Amended) The telecommunications system as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a distribution unit configured to distribute combined packets to two or more of the subscriber channels, particularly for routing the packets to at least one service provider determined by a destination address.

6. (Twice Amended) The telecommunications system as claimed claim 3, wherein the telecommunications system comprises an ISDN system.

7. (Twice Amended) A concentrator suitable for use in a method as claimed in claim 1, comprising at least one device for concentrating data incoming on two or more B channels in a single, outgoing channel.

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8. (Amended) The concentrator as claimed in claim 7, wherein two or more devices are configured to together control the feeding of packets into at least one concentrating channel, particularly with a view to avoiding and controlling access contention.

9. (Twice Amended) The concentrator as claimed in claim 7, wherein the concentrator is configured to switch so as to route data not to be concentrated to associated outgoing B channels.
